

Council Connection



Upcoming meetings:

- Art Center Board, 4:30 p.m. March 22
- Human Rights & Relations Commission, 7 p.m. March 27
- Neighborhood Identification Steering Committee, 6:30 p.m. March 28
- Planning Commission, 7 p.m. March 28
- City Council, 7 p.m. April 3

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We'd like to hear from you ...

If you have any comments, call Communications & Technology Services Director Jennifer Bennerotte at 952-833-9520. The text of this publication will be available online at www.EdinaMN.gov.



A summary of the March 20 Edina City Council meeting

Council continues to eye 'sportsdome'

The Council agreed to continue exploring the possibility of constructing a "sportsdome."

Last year, a group of Edina residents who wish to develop an indoor sports facility for recreational and competitive athletic activities came forward. A working group of the Park Board was established to determine if there is community need and desire for such a facility.

The working group determined that there is significant community interest in the construction of a sportsdome. Members also determined that due to limited field space in Edina, it is in the community's best interest to build a sportsdome in a location that results in a net gain of an additional athletic field that can be used throughout the year. The desired solution is a new rectangular-shaped artificial turf field with an inflatable dome over it during the winter months.

The Council agreed to continue studying the matter and recommended that the Braemar Park area be examined first, in case an opportunity arises to build a sportsdome alongside a new golf dome. The new golf dome would replace the structure deflated by fire earlier this year.

The Council is expected to take formal action to further the study at its next meeting.

Council affirms stance on marriage equality

Edina has joined with Duluth, Minneapolis, St. Louis Park and Saint Paul in supporting marriage equality.

The Council unanimously approved a resolution opposing

the proposed Constitutional Amendment to ban the legal recognition of same-sex relations and unions in Minnesota.

In 2010, Edina was one of the first cities in the state to adopt a Domestic Partnership Ordinance. Today, 15 couples are registered with the City as domestic partners. Members of the Human Rights & Relations Commission urged the Council to approve the resolution, saying that failure to oppose the constitutional amendment may be seen as a step backward.

Council OKs plans for Vitamin Shoppe, financial firm

The Council approved a redevelopment on France Avenue.

FE 70 has proposed tearing down the gas station at 6996 France Ave. and rebuilding an 8,260-square-foot office and retail building known as "Phoenix Plaza." The building would include a 3,000-square-foot retail space for Vitamin Shoppe and a 5,260-square-foot office for Ameritrade.

To move forward with the project, the property must be rezoned as a Planned Unit Development and the Council must grant final development plan approval.

The Council reviewed the developer's sketch plan for the project in July. The design of the building changed since that time. Because Council members preferred the sketch plan over what they saw more recently, they tabled action on the matter March 6, asking the developer to revise the building's elevations to look more like the first drawings they reviewed. The developer revised the plans

accordingly, garnering the Council's unanimous approval.

Council approves religious observance policy

To make sure no one is precluded from participating during decision-making processes, the City Council approved a "Public Meetings and Religious Observance Policy."

The League of Women Voters of Edina approached the City's Administration Department late last year, encouraging staff to develop a policy restricting public meetings on days of religious observance. In response, a policy was drafted and feedback solicited from the Human Rights & Relations Commission.

According to the policy, in addition to the holidays on which City offices are closed, City Council, board and commission meetings will not be scheduled on major Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Hindu days of religious observance with significant work restrictions. Those holidays are Christmas Eve and Good Friday (Christian); evening before and day of Yom Kippur, evening before and two days of Rosh Hashanah, evening before and first two days of Passover (Jewish); Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha (Muslim); and Diwali (Hindu).

Council approves two-year union contracts

The City Council approved contracts with the City's largest employee unions.

The Council approved contracts with public service workers and police officers for 2012 and 2013.